

General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7429

January Session, 2007

*	HB07429APP_	050407	*
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AN ACT CONCERNING JUDICIAL BRANCH OPENNESS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- Section 1. Section 51-44a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):
- (a) There is established a Judicial Selection Commission comprised of twelve members. Six of the members shall be attorneys-at-law and six of the members shall not be attorneys-at-law. Not more than six of the members shall belong to the same political party. None of the members shall be an elected or appointed official of the state or hold state-wide office in a political party.
- 9 (b) The members of the commission shall be appointed as follows: 10 The Governor shall appoint six members, one from each congressional 11 district and one at-large member, three of whom shall be attorneys-at-12 law and three of whom shall not be attorneys-at-law; the president pro 13 tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall be an 14 attorney-at-law; the speaker of the House of Representatives shall 15 appoint one member who shall not be an attorney-at-law; the majority 16 leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall not be an 17 attorney-at-law; the majority leader of the House of Representatives 18 shall appoint one member who shall be an attorney-at-law; the 19 minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall not 20 be an attorney-at-law; and the minority leader of the House of

- 21 Representatives shall appoint one member who shall be an attorney-at-
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- 23 (c) The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from 24 among the members appointed by the Governor.
- 25 (d) (1) The members of the commission shall serve for terms of three 26 years.
- 27 (2) Members appointed on or after June 26, 2003, shall serve for 28 terms of three years and, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-1, 29 until their successors are appointed and have qualified or ninety days 30 after the completion of their terms, whichever is earlier.
 - (3) Members serving on June 26, 2003, shall continue to serve as members until the end of their terms and, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-1, until their successors are appointed and have qualified or ninety days after the completion of their terms, whichever is earlier, except that members serving on June 26, 2003, who have completed their terms and are serving until their successors are appointed and have qualified shall, notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-1, continue to serve until their successors are appointed and have qualified, but not later than January 1, 2004.
 - (4) Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the appointing authority. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
 - (5) No member of the commission may serve consecutive terms, except that if, on or after June 26, 2003, a person is appointed a member of the commission to fill a vacancy and complete an unexpired term, such person may serve an additional term. If a commission member is an attorney, no member of the commission member's firm may serve a term consecutive to such commission member.

(e) The commission shall evaluate incumbent judges who seek reappointment to the same court, and incumbent state referees who seek reappointment, and shall forward to the Governor for consideration the names of incumbent judges and state referees who are recommended for reappointment as provided in this subsection. The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning criteria by which to evaluate incumbent judges who seek reappointment to the same court [; provided pending adoption of such regulations, the commission shall use criteria established prior to June 22, 1989, for the evaluation of such judges] and incumbent state referees who seek reappointment. In evaluating the reappointment of an incumbent judge or state referee, the commission shall consider the legal ability, competence, integrity, character and temperament of such judge or state referee and any other relevant information concerning such judge or state referee. There shall be a presumption that each incumbent judge who seeks reappointment to the same court qualifies for retention in judicial office. The burden of rebutting such presumption shall be on the commission. Such presumption shall not apply to incumbent state referees who seek reappointment. The commission shall investigate and interview each incumbent judge and state referee who seeks reappointment and, prior to the expiration of a term of office of such judge or state referee, shall recommend such incumbent judge or state referee for nomination for reappointment by the Governor [to the same court] unless, as provided in this subsection, recommendation of such judge or state referee is denied. If a preliminary examination indicates further inquiry is necessary before a recommendation reappointment may be made, the commission shall hold a hearing concerning the reappointment of such judge or state referee. The commission shall send notice to the judge or state referee by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, not less than one hundred eighty days prior to the convening of such legislative session which is to consider the reappointment of the incumbent judge or state referee, (A) that a hearing by the commission on such reappointment shall be held and of the time, date and place of such hearing, which shall be not

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less than thirty days [nor] or more than forty-five days after the date of such notice, and (B) of specific claims made against the judge or state referee. The commission shall make a record of all hearings conducted pursuant to this subsection. The hearing may be open to the public at the request of the judge or state referee. For the purposes of conducting a hearing under this subsection, not less than ten members of the commission shall be present and voting. A judge or state referee appearing before such a hearing shall be entitled to counsel, to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses who appear voluntarily. No judge or state referee shall be required to sign or execute any release in order to proceed with the hearing. The commission shall, not later than twenty days after the close of such hearing, render its decision whether it shall recommend such incumbent judge or state referee for nomination for reappointment by the Governor. Any affirmative vote of a majority plus one of the members present and voting shall be required to deny recommendation to the Governor for nomination of an incumbent judge to the same court or an incumbent state referee. A judge or state referee who has not received approval by the commission may, within ten days after receipt of the notice of decision, which shall include a record of the numerical vote, request a rehearing on the grounds that the conclusions of the commission are contrary to the evidence presented at the hearing or the commission failed to comply with the procedural or substantive requirements of this section. The decision of the commission shall be final. There shall be no right of appeal by any judge or state referee appearing before the commission, at law or in equity, or any resort to any court following the decision of the commission.

(f) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the commission shall seek qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor for nomination as judges for the Superior Court, Appellate Court and Supreme Court. The commission shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, concerning criteria by which to evaluate the qualifications of candidates, including incumbent judges who seek appointment to a different court. The

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- commission shall investigate and interview the candidates, including incumbent judges seeking appointment to a different court. A list of such qualified candidates shall be compiled by the commission. Such list shall be confidential and not open to the public or subject to disclosure, except that the names of qualified candidates for the position of associate judge or Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be available to the public.
 - (g) The commission shall establish and maintain an Internet web site. The commission shall post on the web site the address and telephone number of the commission's office, the electronic mail address for the commission and information concerning the duties and procedures of the commission. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the procedure for filing an application to become a judge of the Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court and a copy of the application form.
 - (h) The commission shall give notice of the time and place of its meetings, and make the agendas for such meetings available to the public, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 14, except that an agenda made available to the public shall not contain any personally identifiable information that might identify candidates, incumbent judges seeking appointment to the same court or appointment to a different court or incumbent state referees seeking reappointment. The commission shall post such notices and agendas on its Internet web site and provide such notices and agendas to the cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary.
 - [(g)] (i) In connection with any inquiry concerning the reappointment of an incumbent judge or state referee, the commission shall have the power to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of any books or papers which in the judgment of the commission are relevant to the inquiry. The commission may, upon request of the judge or state referee whose reappointment is at issue, issue a subpoena on behalf of such judge or

state referee. If any person disobeys such process or, having appeared in obedience thereto, refuses to answer any pertinent question put to [him] such person by the commission [,] or to produce any books and papers pursuant thereto, the commission, on its own behalf or on behalf of the judge or state referee, may apply to the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford setting forth such disobedience to process or refusal to answer, and [said] the court may cite such person to appear before [said] the court to answer such question or to produce such books and papers and, upon [his] such person's refusal so to do, shall commit [him] such person to a community correctional center, there to remain until [he] such person so testifies.

[(h)] (j) (1) Judges of all courts, except those courts to which judges are elected, shall be nominated by the Governor exclusively from the list of candidates or incumbent judges submitted by the Judicial Selection Commission. Any candidate or incumbent judge who is nominated from such list by the Governor to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and who is appointed Chief Justice by the General Assembly, shall serve a term of eight years from the date of appointment. The Governor shall nominate a candidate for a vacancy in a judicial position within forty-five days of the date the Governor receives the recommendations of the commission. When considering the nomination of an incumbent judge for reappointment to the same court, the Governor may nominate the incumbent judge if the commission did not deny recommendation for reappointment. Whenever an incumbent judge is denied recommendation for reappointment to the same court by the commission or is recommended by the commission but not nominated by the Governor for reappointment to the same court, or whenever a vacancy in a judicial position occurs or is anticipated, the Governor shall choose a nominee from the list of candidates compiled pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection and subsection (f) of this section, the Governor may nominate an associate judge of the Supreme Court to be Chief Justice

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of the Supreme Court without such judge being investigated and interviewed by the commission and being on the list of qualified candidates compiled and submitted to the Governor by the commission. An associate judge of the Supreme Court who has been nominated by the Governor to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in accordance with this subdivision, and who is appointed Chief Justice by the General Assembly, shall serve an initial term as Chief Justice equal to the remainder of such judge's term as an associate judge of the Supreme Court.

- (3) When considering the nomination of an incumbent state referee for reappointment, the Governor may nominate the incumbent state referee if the commission did not deny recommendation for reappointment.
- [(i)] (k) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members of the commission present and voting shall be required for any action by the commission, except (1) an affirmative vote of at least a majority plus one of the members present and voting shall be required for a new nominee to be recommended to the Governor for nomination as a judge or for an incumbent judge to be recommended to the Governor for nomination as a judge to a different court, and (2) an affirmative vote of a majority plus one of the members present and voting shall be required to deny recommendation to the Governor for nomination of an incumbent judge to the same court or for nomination of a state referee for reappointment. No vote of the commission on a new nominee shall be by secret ballot. The vote of the commission on an incumbent judge or state referee may be by secret ballot.
- [(j)] (l) Except as provided in subsections (e), [and (m)] (f), (h) and (o) of this section, the investigations, deliberations, files and records of the commission shall be confidential and shall not be open to the public or subject to disclosure, except that the criteria by which candidates, [or] incumbent judges who seek reappointment to the same court or appointment to a different court or incumbent state

- referees who seek reappointment are evaluated and the procedural rules adopted by the commission shall be public.
- [(k)] (m) The commission may employ such staff as is necessary for the performance of its functions and duties.
- [(l)] (n) No member of the commission who is an attorney-at-law shall be considered for recommendation to the Governor for nomination as a judge during [his] such member's tenure on the commission or for a period of two years following the termination of [his] such member's tenure on the commission.
 - [(m)] (o) In January of each year, the chairperson of the commission shall report to the joint standing committee [on] of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary the following information: (1) The number of candidates interviewed for appointment as new nominees, the number of incumbent judges interviewed for reappointment to the same court, [and] the number of incumbent judges interviewed for appointment to a different court and the number of incumbent state referees interviewed for reappointment, (2) the number of candidates who were recommended and denied recommendation to the Governor as new nominees, the number of incumbent judges recommended and denied recommendation for appointment to the same court, [and] the number of incumbent judges recommended and denied recommendation for appointment to a different court and the number of incumbent state referees recommended and denied recommendation for reappointment, and (3) the statistics regarding the race, gender, national origin, religion and years of experience as members of the bar of all such candidates.
 - [(n)] (p) The commission [shall have the power to] may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of its duties concerning the investigation of candidates seeking appointment to a judicial position, [and] incumbent judges seeking reappointment to the same court or appointment to a different court and incumbent state referees seeking reappointment, within the limits

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- of appropriated funds and in accordance with established procedures.
- Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 51-50*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):
- 257 (a) Each senior judge who ceases to hold office as a senior judge 258 because of having reached the age of seventy years and who is an 259 elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee for the 260 remainder of [his] such senior judge's term of office as a judge and 261 shall be eligible for appointment as a state referee during the 262 remainder of [his] such senior judge's life in the manner prescribed by 263 law for the appointment of a judge of the court of which [he] such 264 senior judge is a member, subject to the provisions of section 51-44a, as amended by this act. 265
- Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 52-434 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):
 - (a) (1) Each judge of the Supreme Court, each judge of the Appellate Court, each judge of the Superior Court and each judge of the Court of Common Pleas who ceases or has ceased to hold office because of retirement, other than under the provisions of section 51-49, and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be eligible for appointment as a state referee during the remainder of such judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a judge of the court of which such judge is a member, subject to the provisions of section 51-44a, as amended by this act. The Superior Court may refer any civil [,] nonjury case or with the written consent of the parties or their attorneys, any civil jury case pending before the court in which the issues have been closed to a judge trial referee who shall have and exercise the powers of the Superior Court in respect to trial, judgment and appeal in the case, and any proceeding resulting from a demand for a trial de novo pursuant to subsection (e) of section 52-549z may be

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referred without the consent of the parties to a judge trial referee who has been specifically designated to hear such proceedings pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The Superior Court may, with the consent of the parties or their attorneys, refer any criminal case to a judge trial referee who shall have and exercise the powers of the Superior Court in respect to trial, judgment, sentencing and appeal in the case, except that the Superior Court may, without the consent of the parties or their attorneys, (A) refer any criminal case, other than a criminal jury trial, to a judge trial referee assigned to a geographical area criminal court session, and (B) refer any criminal case, other than a class A or B felony or capital felony, to a judge trial referee to preside over the jury selection process and any voir dire examination conducted in such case, unless good cause is shown not to refer.

(2) Each judge of the Circuit Court who has ceased to hold office because of retirement, other than under the provisions of section 51-49, and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be eligible for appointment as a state referee during the remainder of such judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a judge of the court of which such judge is a member, subject to the provisions of section 51-44a, as amended by this act, to whom the Superior Court may, with the written consent of the parties or their attorneys, refer any case pending in court in which the issues have been closed and which the judges of the Superior Court may establish by rule to be the kind of case which may be heard by such referees who have been appointed judge trial referees pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The judge trial referee shall hear any such case so referred and report the facts to the court by which the case was referred.

(3) Each judge of the Juvenile Court who ceases or has ceased to hold office because of retirement, other than under the provisions of section 51-49, and who is an elector and a resident of this state shall be a state referee for the remainder of such judge's term of office as a judge and shall be eligible for appointment as a state referee during the

remainder of such judge's life in the manner prescribed by law for the appointment of a judge of the court of which such judge is a member, subject to the provisions of section 51-44a, as amended by this act, to whom a judge before whom any juvenile matter is pending may, with the written consent of the child concerned, either of such child's parents, or such child's guardian or attorney, refer any juvenile matter pending, provided such referee has been appointed a judge trial referee specifically designated to hear juvenile cases pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The judge trial referee shall hear any matter so referred and report the facts to the court for the district from which the matter was referred.

- (4) In addition to the judge trial referees who are appointed pursuant to subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection, the Chief Justice may appoint, from qualified members of the bar of the state, who are electors and residents of this state, as many state referees as the Chief Justice may from time to time deem advisable or necessary. No appointment of a member of the bar may be for a term of more than three years. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, state referees appointed by the Chief Justice from members of the bar shall receive such reasonable compensation and expenses as may be determined by the Chief Justice. The Superior Court may appoint a state referee pursuant to this subdivision to take such evidence as it directs in any civil [,] nonjury case including, but not limited to, appeals under section 8-8. Any such state referee shall report on such evidence to the court with any findings of fact. The report shall constitute a part of the proceeding upon which the determination of the court shall be made.
- Sec. 4. Section 51-51*l* of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):
- (a) Except as provided in subsection [(d)] (e) of this section, the Judicial Review Council shall investigate every written complaint brought before it alleging conduct under section 51-51i, and may initiate an investigation of any judge, compensation commissioner or

family support magistrate if (1) the council has reason to believe conduct under section 51-51i has occurred, or (2) previous complaints indicate a pattern of behavior which would lead to a reasonable belief that conduct under section 51-51i has occurred. The council shall, not later than five days after such initiation of an investigation or receipt of such complaint, notify by registered or certified mail any judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate under investigation or against whom such complaint is filed. A copy of any such complaint shall accompany such notice. The council shall also notify the complainant of its receipt of such complaint not later than five days thereafter. Any investigation to determine whether or not there is probable cause that conduct under section 51-51i has occurred shall be confidential and any individual called by the council for the purpose of providing information shall not disclose [his] such <u>individual's</u> knowledge of such investigation to a third party prior to the decision of the council on whether probable cause exists, unless the respondent requests that such investigation and disclosure be open, [provided] except that information known or obtained independently of any such investigation shall not be confidential and the complainant may disclose that he or she has filed a complaint against a judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate. The judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate shall have the right to appear and be heard and to offer any information which may tend to clear [him] such judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate of probable cause to believe he or she is guilty of conduct under section 51-51i. The judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate shall also have the right to be represented by legal counsel and examine and cross-examine witnesses. In conducting its investigation under this subsection, the council may request that a court furnish to the council a record or transcript of court proceedings made or prepared by a court reporter, assistant court reporter or monitor and the court shall, upon such request, furnish such record or transcript.

(b) The Judicial Review Council shall, not later than three business

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days after the termination of such investigation, notify the complainant, if any, and the judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate that the investigation has been terminated and the results thereof. If the council finds that conduct under section 51-51i has not occurred, but the judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate has acted in a manner which gives the appearance of impropriety or constitutes an unfavorable judicial or magisterial practice, the council may issue an admonishment to the judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate recommending a change in judicial or magisterial conduct or practice. If an admonishment is issued, the council shall (1) notify the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary that an admonishment was issued and provide said committee with the substance of the admonishment, including copies of the complaint file, and (2) inform the complainant, if any, that an admonishment was issued if the admonishment is the result of misconduct alleged in the complaint. [Except as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the The substance of the admonishment shall [not be disclosed to any person or organization] be a matter of public record.

(c) If a preliminary investigation indicates that probable cause exists that the judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate is guilty of conduct under section 51-51i, the investigatory records of the council including any complaint, transcripts of evidentiary proceedings, statements and other documentary evidence obtained or compiled during the investigation shall be open for public inspection except that any information that would be exempt from disclosure under subsection (b) of section 1-210 shall be removed or redacted.

[(c)] (d) If a preliminary investigation indicates that probable cause exists that the judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate is guilty of conduct under section 51-51i, the council shall hold a hearing concerning the conduct or complaint. [All hearings held pursuant to this subsection shall be open.] A judge, compensation

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commissioner or family support magistrate appearing before such a hearing shall be entitled to counsel, to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses. The council shall make a record of all proceedings pursuant to this subsection. After all evidence and arguments have been presented at such hearing, the council shall determine whether the judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate is guilty of conduct under section 51-51i. The council shall not later than thirty days after the close of such hearing publish its findings together with a memorandum of its reasons therefor. All proceedings of the council held pursuant to this subsection, including all hearings and meetings and the deliberations of the council in making its findings, shall be open to the public.

[(d)] (e) No complaint against a judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate alleging conduct under section 51-51i shall be brought under this section but within one year from the date the alleged conduct occurred or was discovered or in the exercise of reasonable care should have been discovered, except that no such complaint may be brought more than three years from the date the alleged conduct occurred.

[(e)] (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, the council shall disclose any information concerning complaints received by the council on and after January 1, 1978, investigations, and disposition of such complaints to the legislative program review and investigations committee when requested by the committee in the course of its functions, in writing and upon a majority vote of the committee, provided no names or other identifying information shall be disclosed.

[(f)] (g) On and after December 19, 1991, any judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate who has been the subject of an investigation by the Judicial Review Council as a result of a complaint brought before [such] the council may request that such complaint, investigation and the disposition of such complaint be open to public inspection.

- [(g)] (h) Whenever a complaint against a judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate is pending before the Judicial Review Council within the final year of the term of office of such judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate, the Judicial Review Council shall designate such complaint as privileged and shall conduct an expedited investigation and hearing so that its duties with respect to such complaint are completed in sufficient time to enable the Judicial Review Council to make its recommendation concerning any such judge to the Judicial Selection Commission and the Governor under section 51-51q in a timely manner.
- Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 51-51n of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective* October 1, 2007):
- 467 (a) The Judicial Review Council may, after a hearing pursuant to 468 subsection [(c)] (d) of section 51-51l, as amended by this act, (1) 469 publicly censure the judge, compensation commissioner or family 470 support magistrate, (2) suspend the judge, compensation 471 commissioner or family support magistrate for a definite term not to 472 exceed one year, (3) refer the matter to the Supreme Court with a 473 recommendation that the judge or family support magistrate be 474 suspended for a period longer than one year, (4) refer the matter to the 475 Supreme Court with a recommendation that the judge or family 476 support magistrate be removed from office or to the Governor with a 477 recommendation that the compensation commissioner be removed 478 from office, or (5) exonerate the judge, compensation commissioner or 479 family support magistrate of all charges.
- Sec. 6. Section 51-51q of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):
- (a) (1) [The] Whenever a judge is nominated for appointment to a different court or for reappointment, the Judicial Review Council shall submit [its recommendations concerning the nomination for

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appointment to a different court of any judge or nomination for reappointment of any judge whose term of office is about to expire, including] a report of any complaint filed against [any] such judge and the disposition of any such complaint, [and] including any investigation of any such judge by the council, to the Governor, to the Judicial Selection Commission and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary, provided the Judicial Selection Commission shall not consider any investigation of the Judicial Review Council which resulted in the exoneration of a judge.

(2) In addition to the information required to be submitted under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Judicial Review Council shall make all complaint files concerning any such judge available to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, if the disposition of a complaint filed against any such judge involved the issuance of an admonishment to or the public censure or suspension of such judge, (A) no information pertaining to the complaint and the investigation and disposition of such complaint may be removed, redacted or otherwise withheld by the Judicial Review Council prior to making such complaint files available to said committee as required by this subdivision, and (B) the Judicial Review Council shall provide to said committee any information, including, but not limited to, any confidential information, in its possession concerning such judge that may be requested in writing by the cochairpersons of said committee. Such information shall be provided to said committee not later than three business days following the date the request is received by the Judicial Review Council. Any confidential information provided to said committee as required by this subdivision shall not be further disclosed to any person or organization.

[(3) If the Judicial Review Council has reason to believe any such judge is guilty of conduct under section 51-51i, material neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of his office, it may refuse to

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- 519 recommend such judge for nomination for appointment to a different 520 court or for reappointment. The Judicial Review Council shall not recommend a judge for nomination for appointment to a different 522 court or for reappointment if the council finds such judge has wilfully 523 violated section 51-39a or has been convicted of a felony or of a 524 misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.]
 - (b) The Judicial Review Council shall submit [its recommendations concerning the reappointment of any family support magistrate whose term of office is about to expire, including a report of any complaint filed against any family support magistrate whose term of office is about to expire and the disposition of any such complaint, including any investigation of any such magistrate by the council, to the Governor.
 - (c) The Judicial Review Council shall submit [its recommendations concerning the nomination for reappointment of any compensation commissioner whose term of office is about to expire, including a report of any complaint filed against any compensation commissioner whose term of office is about to expire and the disposition of such complaint, including any investigation of such compensation commissioner by the council, to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary. The Judicial Review Council shall provide information to said committee concerning any complaint filed against such compensation commissioner and the investigation disposition of such complaint, including, but not limited to, confidential information, in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as information provided under subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this section.
 - (d) If a complaint against any such judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate is received by the Judicial Review Council and the Judicial Review Council is unable to make its findings and complete its duties with respect to such judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate prior to the

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- expiration of the term of office of such judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate, the Judicial Review Council [shall not refuse to recommend such judge, compensation commissioner or family support magistrate for reappointment based on such complaint, but] shall report the fact of such complaint to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary.
- Sec. 7. Section 51-51r of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):
- 561 Any judge or family support magistrate aggrieved by any decision 562 of the Judicial Review Council may appeal the decision to the Supreme 563 Court in accordance with such procedure for the appeal as the 564 Supreme Court shall adopt by rule. <u>In reviewing the factual findings</u> 565 of the council, the Supreme Court shall ascertain whether there was 566 substantial evidence to support those findings and in reviewing the 567 legal conclusions of the council, the Supreme Court shall conduct a de 568 novo review.
 - Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2007) (a) On and after the effective date of this section, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall nominate for appointment by the General Assembly a Chief Court Administrator. The Chief Court Administrator shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice and for a term coterminous with the term of the Chief Justice. If the Chief Court Administrator is a judge of the Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court, cessation of his or her service as Chief Court Administrator shall not affect his or her term as judge of the Superior Court, Appellate Court or Supreme Court.
 - (b) A nomination made by the Chief Justice to the General Assembly for appointment of a Chief Court Administrator shall be referred, without debate, to the committee on the judiciary, which shall report thereon within thirty legislative days from the time of reference, but no later than seven legislative days before the adjourning of the General

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- (c) No vacancy in the position of Chief Court Administrator shall be filled by the Chief Justice when the General Assembly is not in session unless, prior to such filling, the Chief Justice submits the name of the proposed vacancy appointee to the committee on the judiciary. Within forty-five days, the committee on the judiciary may, upon the call of either chairperson, hold a special meeting for the purpose of approving or disapproving such proposed vacancy appointee by majority vote. The proposed vacancy appointee shall not begin service as Chief Court Administrator until the committee has approved such proposed vacancy appointee. If the committee determines that it cannot complete its investigation and act on such proposed vacancy appointee within such forty-five-day period, it may extend such period by an additional fifteen days. The committee shall notify the Chief Justice in writing of any such extension. Failure of the committee to act on such proposed vacancy appointee within such forty-five-day period or any fifteen-day extension period shall be deemed to be an approval.
- Sec. 9. Section 51-1b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):
- [(a)] The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be the head of the Judicial Department and shall be responsible for its administration.
- [(b) The Chief Justice shall appoint a Chief Court Administrator who shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice.]
- Sec. 10. Section 45a-74 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):
- [(a) There shall be a Probate Court Administrator who shall be appointed from among the judges of the several courts of probate by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to serve at his pleasure. If the Probate Court Administrator is unable by reason of sickness, absence or other disability to perform the duties of his office, or if there is a vacancy in the office of Probate Court Administrator, the Chief Justice

- shall designate another judge of a court of probate to act in his stead
- until he resumes his duties or until a new Probate Court Administrator
- 617 is appointed.]
- (a) On and after the effective date of this section, the Chief Justice of
- 619 the Supreme Court shall nominate for appointment by the General
- 620 Assembly a Probate Court Administrator. The Probate Court
- 621 Administrator shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice and for a
- 622 term coterminous with the term of the Chief Justice. If the Probate
- 623 Court Administrator is a judge of probate, cessation of his or her
- 624 service as Probate Court Administrator shall not affect his or her term
- 625 <u>as judge of probate.</u>
- (b) The Probate Court Administrator shall devote full time to the
- duties of [his] the office except that he or she may serve as a judge of
- 628 probate but shall not engage in the private practice of law. Any
- Probate Court Administrator who ceases to serve as a judge of probate
- 630 may continue to serve as Probate Court Administrator at the pleasure
- 631 of the Chief Justice.
- 632 (c) A nomination made by the Chief Justice to the General Assembly
- 633 for appointment of a Probate Court Administrator shall be referred,
- 634 without debate, to the committee on the judiciary, which shall report
- 635 thereon within thirty legislative days from the time of reference, but no
- later than seven legislative days before the adjourning of the General
- 637 Assembly.
- (d) No vacancy in the position of Probate Court Administrator shall
- 639 be filled by the Chief Justice when the General Assembly is not in
- session unless, prior to such filling, the Chief Justice submits the name
- of the proposed vacancy appointee to the committee on the judiciary.
- Within forty-five days, the committee on the judiciary may, upon the
- 643 call of either chairperson, hold a special meeting for the purpose of
- 644 approving or disapproving such proposed vacancy appointee by
- 645 majority vote. The proposed vacancy appointee shall not begin service
- as Probate Court Administrator until the committee has approved such

- 647 proposed vacancy appointee. If the committee determines that it
- 648 cannot complete its investigation and act on such proposed vacancy
- appointee within such forty-five-day period, it may extend such period
- by an additional fifteen days. The committee shall notify the Chief
- 651 <u>Justice in writing of any such extension</u>. Failure of the committee to act
- on such proposed vacancy appointee within such forty-five-day period
- or any fifteen-day extension period shall be deemed to be an approval.
- Sec. 11. (*Effective from passage*) The courthouse of the Superior Court
- located at 1 Courthouse Square in Norwich shall be named the "Milton
- 656 L. Jacobson Courthouse".
- Sec. 12. Section 52-583 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 658 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):
- No civil action shall be brought against any [sheriff, sheriff's deputy
- or constable [,] or state marshal for any neglect or default in his or her
- office or duty, but within two years next after the right of action
- accrues.
- Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) For purposes of subparagraph
- (A) of subdivision (1) of section 1-200 and subdivision (1) of subsection
- 665 (a) of section 1-212 of the general statutes, "administrative functions"
- means (1) all matters not directly related to judicial activities in, and
- discussions concerning, court cases, and (2) those matters that relate to
- 668 the management of the internal institutional machinery of the judicial
- 669 branch including, but not limited to, budgeting, accounting, rule-
- 670 making, personnel, facilities, physical operations, docketing and
- 671 scheduling.
- Sec. 14. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2007) (a) Whenever the Office of the
- 673 Chief Court Administrator receives a complaint concerning the
- 674 conduct of a judge, the Chief Court Administrator shall, in addition to
- any administrative reasons for reviewing such complaint, review such
- 676 complaint to determine if there is reason to believe that the allegations
- 677 warrant further investigation by the Judicial Review Council. If the
- 678 Chief Court Administrator determines that such further investigation

- 679 is warranted, he or she shall refer such complaint to the Judicial 680 Review Council for investigation and action in accordance with 681 chapter 872a of the general statutes.
- (b) If the Chief Court Administrator, in consultation with the Chief Justice, determines that the complaint is (1) without merit, (2) properly the subject of review through an existing adjudicatory procedure, or (3) otherwise not within the purview of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, such complaint shall not be open to the public.
- (c) If the Chief Court Administrator, in consultation with the Chief Justice, determines that the complaint warrants administrative action, but does not rise to the level that is appropriate for referral to the Judicial Review Council, the Chief Court Administrator may issue an admonishment in accordance with section 51-45a of the general statutes.
 - Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The judicial branch shall make the criminal docket of the Superior Court, including the docket number, name of the defendant, date of birth of the defendant and charge, available to the public on its Internet web site. If the judicial branch determines that there is a serious risk of identity theft in posting the date of birth of a defendant on the web site, it may post a redacted version of the date of birth such as only the month and year of birth.
 - Sec. 16. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2007) The judicial branch shall make conviction information, as defined in section 54-142g of the general statutes, available to the public on its Internet web site. Such information shall include the docket number of the case, name of the defendant, date of arrest, charges and disposition including any fine, term of imprisonment and term of probation imposed by the court, but shall not include the address or motor vehicle operator license number of the defendant. Such information shall be searchable by name of defendant, date of birth of defendant and docket number. If the judicial branch determines that there is a serious risk of identity theft

- in posting the date of birth of a defendant on the web site, it may post a redacted version of the date of birth such as only the month and year of birth. Conviction information with respect to misdemeanors shall not be available to the public on the judicial branch or other public agency web site after five years from the date of the conviction.
- Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Whenever an arrest is made in connection with the execution of a search warrant, any motion filed by a prosecuting authority seeking to extend an order of the court issued under section 54-33c of the general statutes sealing or limiting the disclosure of an affidavit upon which such search warrant was based shall be heard by the court on the record. Any such extension shall be until a date certain and shall not exceed ninety days.
 - Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Any police report used during a court hearing as the basis for a judicial determination of probable cause, whether or not probable cause has been found, shall be made part of the court file and be open to the public unless the court, on motion of any party or on its own motion, orders, for good cause shown, all or a portion of the report to be sealed. If such motion is granted, the moving party may make a recommendation within seven days as to the details of the sealing order. If no such recommendation is made, the report shall be made public.
- Sec. 19. Subsection (d) of section 54-56d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 1, 2007):
 - (d) If the court finds that the request for an examination is justified and that, in accordance with procedures established by the judges of the Superior Court, there is probable cause to believe that the defendant has committed the crime for which the defendant is charged, the court shall order an examination of the defendant as to his or her competency. The court may (1) appoint one or more physicians specializing in psychiatry to examine the defendant, or (2) order the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services to conduct the

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examination either (A) by a clinical team consisting of a physician specializing in psychiatry, a clinical psychologist and one of the following: A clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b or a psychiatric nurse clinical specialist holding a master's degree in nursing, or (B) by one or more physicians specializing in psychiatry, except that no employee of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services who has served as a member of a clinical team in the course of such employment for at least five years prior to October 1, 1995, shall be precluded from being appointed as a member of a clinical team. If the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services is ordered to conduct the examination, the commissioner shall select the members of the clinical team or the physician or physicians. If the examiners determine that the defendant is not competent, the examiners shall then determine whether there is a substantial probability that the defendant, if provided with a course of treatment, will regain competency within the maximum period of any placement order under this section. If the examiners determine that there is a substantial probability that the defendant, if provided with a course of treatment, will regain competency within the maximum period of any placement order under this section, the examiners shall then determine whether the defendant appears to be eligible for civil commitment, with monitoring by the Court Support Services Division, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of this section. The court may authorize a physician specializing in psychiatry, psychologist, a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b or a psychiatric nurse clinical specialist holding a master's degree in nursing selected by the defendant to observe the examination. Counsel for the defendant may observe the examination. The examination shall be completed within fifteen days from the date it was ordered and the examiners shall prepare and sign, without notarization, a written report and file such report with the court within twenty-one business days of the date of the order. On receipt of the written report, the clerk of the court shall cause copies to be delivered immediately to the state's attorney and to counsel for the defendant. The court shall, but only as to the public, order the written report sealed. The written

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- 778 report shall not be open to the public unless it is introduced at the
- 779 <u>hearing under subsection (e) of this section, a participant at such</u>
- 780 hearing relies upon such report for his or her testimony, the
- 781 questioning of witnesses or arguments to the court or the court makes
- 782 <u>findings based on such report.</u>
- Sec. 20. Subsection (a) of section 53a-39a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
- repealed and the following is substituted in fled thereof (Effective July
- 785 1, 2007):
- 786 (a) In all cases where a defendant has been convicted of a 787 misdemeanor or a felony, other than a capital felony, a class A felony 788 or a violation of section 21a-278, 21a-278a, 53a-55, 53a-56, 53a-56b, 53a-789 57, 53a-58 or 53a-70b or any other offense for which there is a 790 mandatory minimum sentence which may not be suspended or reduced by the court, after trial or by a plea of guilty without trial, and 791 792 a term of imprisonment is part of a stated plea agreement or the 793 statutory penalty provides for a term of imprisonment, the court may, 794 in its discretion, order an assessment for placement in an alternate 795 incarceration program under contract with the Judicial Department. If 796 the Court Support Services Division recommends placement in an 797 alternate incarceration program, it shall also submit to the court a 798 proposed alternate incarceration plan. Upon completion of the 799 assessment, the court shall determine whether such defendant shall be 800 ordered to participate in such program as an alternative to 801 incarceration. If the court determines that the defendant shall 802 participate in such program, the court shall suspend any sentence of 803 imprisonment and shall make participation in the alternate 804 incarceration program a condition of probation as provided in section 53a-30. An alternate incarceration assessment report prepared 805 806 pursuant to this subsection shall be sealed upon filing with the court. If 807 the court orders the defendant to participate in such alternate incarceration program, the report shall be unsealed and open to the 808 809 public.
- Sec. 21. Subsection (c) of section 19a-343a of the general statutes is

- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July* 812 1, 2007):
- 813 (c) If in the application, the state requests the issuance of a 814 temporary ex parte order for the abatement of a public nuisance, the 815 court [,] or, if the court is not in session, any judge of the Superior 816 Court, may grant a temporary ex parte order to abate the public 817 nuisance. The court or judge shall direct the state to give notice and 818 service of such documents, including a copy of the ex parte order, in 819 accordance with subsection (b) of this section. At such hearing, any 820 defendant may show cause why the abatement order shall be modified 821 or vacated. No such ex parte order may be granted unless it appears 822 from the specific facts shown by affidavit and by complaint that there 823 is probable cause to believe that a public nuisance exists and the 824 temporary relief requested is necessary to protect the public health, 825 welfare or safety. Such show cause hearing shall be scheduled within 826 five business days after service is effected by the state. [The affidavit 827 may be ordered sealed by the court or judge upon a finding that the 828 state's interest in nondisclosure substantially outweighs the 829 defendant's right to disclosure.] A copy of the state's application and 830 the temporary order to cease and desist shall be posted on any outside 831 door to any building on the real property.
- Sec. 22. Section 51-164x of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):
 - (a) Any person affected by a court order which prohibits any person from attending any session of court, except any session of court conducted pursuant to section 46b-11, 46b-49, 46b-122 or 54-76h, [or any other provision of the general statutes under which the court is authorized to close proceedings, whether at a pretrial or trial stage,] shall have the right to the review of such order by the filing of a petition for review with the Appellate Court [within seventy-two hours from] not later than three business days after the issuance of such court order.

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- (b) No order subject to review pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be effective until [seventy-two hours] the fourth business day after it has been issued, and the timely filing of any petition for review shall stay the order.
- (c) Any person affected by a court order that seals or limits the disclosure of any files, affidavits, documents or other material on file with the court or filed in connection with a court proceeding, except (1) any order issued pursuant to section 46b-11 or 54-33c, [or any other provision of the general statutes under which the court is authorized to seal or limit the disclosure of files, affidavits, documents or materials, whether at a pretrial or trial stage,] and (2) any order issued pursuant to a court rule that seals or limits the disclosure of any affidavit in support of an arrest warrant, shall have the right to the review of such order by the filing of a petition for review with the Appellate Court [within seventy-two hours from] not later than three business days after the issuance of such court order.
- (d) The Appellate Court shall provide an expedited hearing on such petitions filed pursuant to subsections (a) and (c) of this section in accordance with such rules as the judges of the Appellate Court may adopt, consistent with the rights of the petitioner and the parties to the case.
- Sec. 23. Section 4-173 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):
 - (a) The Commission on Official Legal Publications shall publish and distribute a compilation of all effective regulations adopted by all state agencies subsequent to October 27, 1970, except regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (f) of section 4-168. Such publication may be a supplement to or revision of the most current compilation, and shall be published at least semiannually. The Commission on Official Legal Publications may omit from such compilation (1) any regulation that is incorporated by reference into a Connecticut regulation and published by or otherwise available in printed form from a federal agency, a

government agency of another state or a commercial publishing company, (2) any regulation that is too expensive to publish, or (3) any regulation the publication of which would be unduly cumbersome. If the commission omits a regulation from the compilation, it shall publish in the compilation a notice identifying the omitted regulation, stating the general subject matter of the regulation and stating an address, telephone number and any other information needed to obtain a copy of the regulation. Such address and telephone number shall be kept current in each semiannual publication of the compilation. The commission shall publish any regulation that has been omitted from publication under subdivision (2) of this subsection as soon as the commission has sufficient funds.

- (b) The Commission on Official Legal Publications shall in addition cause to be published in the Connecticut Law Journal at least monthly the text of all regulations received by the commission from the office of the Secretary of the State pursuant to section 4-172 during the preceding month. The commission may omit from the Connecticut Law Journal (1) any regulation submitted in accordance with subsection (g) of section 4-168, for the purposes of renumbering sections only, if a correlated table of the former and new section numbers is published in lieu of the full text, (2) any regulation that is incorporated by reference into a Connecticut regulation and published by or otherwise available in printed form from a federal agency, a government agency of another state or a commercial publishing company, and (3) any regulation the publication of which would be too expensive or unduly cumbersome. If the commission omits a regulation from publication in the Connecticut Law Journal under subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection, the commission shall publish in the Connecticut Law Journal a notice identifying the omitted regulation, stating the general subject matter of the regulation and stating an address, telephone number and any other information needed to obtain a copy of the regulation.
- (c) Each agency which adopts a regulation shall make the regulation available for inspection and copying at its main office.

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- (d) Any publication made pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall be made available upon request to agencies and officials of this state free of charge, and to other persons at prices fixed by the Commission on Official Legal Publications, in accordance with section 51-216b.
 - (e) The compilation of regulations published under subsection (a) of this section and all Connecticut regulations omitted from the compilation under subsection (a) shall be maintained in the reference collection of each law library described in section 11-19a.
 - (f) The commission shall make the compilation of effective regulations published pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the text of recently-filed regulations published pursuant to subsection (b) of this section available to the public through the Internet. The web sites of the executive, judicial and legislative branches shall contain a link to such compilation of effective regulations and text of recently-filed regulations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following				
sections:				
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Section 1	October 1, 2007	51-44a		
Sec. 2	October 1, 2007	51-50l(a)		
Sec. 3	October 1, 2007	52-434(a)		
Sec. 4	October 1, 2007	51-51 <i>l</i>		
Sec. 5	October 1, 2007	51-51n(a)		
Sec. 6	October 1, 2007	51-51q		
Sec. 7	October 1, 2007	51-51r		
Sec. 8	July 1, 2007	New section		
Sec. 9	July 1, 2007	51-1b		
Sec. 10	July 1, 2007	45a-74		
Sec. 11	from passage	New section		
Sec. 12	from passage	52-583		
Sec. 13	July 1, 2007	New section		
Sec. 14	July 1, 2007	New section		
Sec. 15	July 1, 2007	New section		
Sec. 16	July 1, 2007	New section		
Sec. 17	July 1, 2007	New section		

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Sec. 18	July 1, 2007	New section
Sec. 19	July 1, 2007	54-56d(d)
Sec. 20	July 1, 2007	53a-39a(a)
Sec. 21	July 1, 2007	19a-343a(c)
Sec. 22	July 1, 2007	51-164x
Sec. 23	July 1, 2007	4-173

APP Joint Favorable Subst.